

Sub D17

20. (Amended) Apparatus for cutting sheet material, comprising:

a unit capable of freely moving in both linear and non-linear paths having a lower part defining a sheet support surface for placing a piece of sheet material;

an upper part defining an upper surface and disposed above said lower part with a gap existing between said upper part and said lower part for receiving the piece of sheet material;

C1 a cutting blade secured in said upper and lower parts, and extending across said gap, said sheet support surface and said upper surface extending to either side of said cutting blade; and,

pressure means mounted on said upper part in said gap for bearing on the piece of sheet material supported by said lower part adjacent to said cutting blade, so that the piece of sheet material is able to be inserted between said pressure means and said sheet support surface for tensioning the piece of sheet material in proximity of said cutting blade.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of all claims now pending in the above-identified patent application (i.e., Claims 20-24) are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.